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Land of Many Stories:
The People & Histories
of Glacier National Park



Welcome!

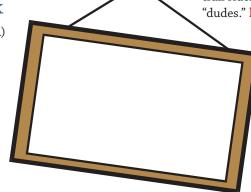
Let's start our tour at
the lobby of the Glacier
Hotel. Did you notice
the "pictographs" on the
Japanese style lanterns
above you? American
Indian art inspired
many of the decorations
in the park's hotels.

Before there was a Park...

Archeological evidence indicates that people have occupied the northern Rockies for at least 12,000 years. The Glacier region provided a home for Native Americans—including the Kootenai, Pend d'Oreille, Salish, Stoney, and Blackfeet tribes—long before it became a park. The Blackfeet called this area the "Backbone of the World." Why do you think they called it that? Can you find the display that lets you touch replicas of archeological tools?

Art & the Promotion of Glacier National Park

The Great Northern Railway (GNRR) worked hard to lure travelers to "Uncle Sam's Newest Playground."
The GNRR hired artists to visit the park and the nearby Blackfeet Indian Reservation and create images that would excite visitors.
Which of the paintings in the exhibit is your favorite?
Why would it make you want to visit Glacier Park?



America's Little Switzerland

The new national park soon acquired the nickname "America's Little Switzerland" because its rugged mountain peaks reminded tourists of the Alps. The Glacier Hotel Company liked this idea and built hotels that looked like European chalets (shal-AYS). At Many Glacier, the waitresses even wore "Swiss Miss" dresses as their uniforms!



Cowboys, Indians and Dudes...

in Glac and th Park, e buffalo clothir

Many of the tourists who visited Glacier came from big cities. They had never met real cowboys or Indians, but in Glacier they could meet both! The Great Northern and the hotels hired Blackfeet people to camp in the Park, entertain visitors with songs and tales of the buffalo days, and pose for portraits in beaded buckskin clothing. Tourists probably did not realize that outside the Park, Indians wore regular "American" clothes,

spoke English, and worked as laborers, farmers and ranchers—just as non-Indians did.

Tourists were also fascinated with Montana's cowboys. The Park Saddle Horse Company employed cowboys to take visitors on trail rides into backcountry camps. Cowboys called these visitors "dudes." **Do you know what a girl "dude" is called?**

Answer: a dudeen!

Souvenirs of a Happy Journey

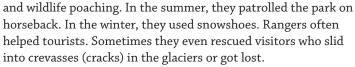
Travelers collect souvenirs to remind them of the places they visit. The exhibit contains many historic souvenirs. **How many can you find? Do you collect souvenirs when you travel? If so, what kind?**

The Going-to-the-Sun Road

The road took thirteen years to build. Immigrants from Russia, Turkey, China, Greece, Sweden, Norway and Italy, as well as members of the Blackfeet and Cree tribes, helped with the construction. **How do you think people crossed the mountains before they had cars and roads?**

Life & Work of a Park Ranger

Early park rangers worked hard. There were only a few rangers, and they lived in tiny cabins far apart. They had to prevent illegal timber cutting



Can you find the old wooden frame "backpack" in the ranger cabin? A ranger strapped his bedding and gear onto this frame and carried it on his back. Equipment then was much heavier than it is today, because they did not have the synthetic (man-made) materials we have now. The woolen long-johns on exhibit are warm, but they weigh a lot when they get wet and take a long time to dry!



Wildlife and Humans

Until the late 20th century, park managers encouraged rangers to shoot "troublesome" animals like wolves, coyotes, foxes, bears and mountain lions. More recently, people have come to

understand that these predators are important to the ecosystem's overall health. Today, all animals are protected in the Park, but bears that get too used to people are often trapped and moved to new locations. For their safety and yours – never approach or feed any park wildlife.

Glacier Park Today

Glacier National Park has evolved from "America's Playground" to the world's classroom. Today it is recognized as one of the most intact (whole) ecosystems in North America, making it one of the last best places to study natural processes, like fire, wildlife, and the ever-shrinking glaciers. Glacier Park also continues to be a place where people can learn about one another. Area tribes still regard the mountains of Glacier as sacred and still go to culturally important sites in the Park. Non-Indian visitors can learn more about the tribes and their histories through an interpretive program called Native America Speaks and tribally operated tours through the Park.

Take a trip back in time...

The map on the other side is a reproduction of a 1930 recreational map made for the Great Northern by artist Joe Scheuerle. Make a list of all the fun activities you can find in this picture! How many different kinds of animals are shown? Can you find the famous red buses? How about Scheuerle himself?

"Check the box" activity

Funny Business: In this exhibit, you might discover a few unusual things you didn't expect! See if you can spot...

- ☐ A chair that faces in two different directions.
- ☐ A tree with a tattoo.
- \square A lady dancing with bears.
- ☐ A tiny "Good Luck" bear in a crate.
- ☐ A really good way to scratch your back.
- ☐ A furry fish.
- ☐ Shoes taller than a first-grader.
- ☐ Rangers on a "Dangerous Mission."
- $\hfill \square$ A barrel of fun...unless you are a bear!
- ☐ A really good way to scratch your back.☐ A bear cub or a ranger with YOUR face!

Glacier Park Timeline



1700s



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100



.895



395-1909



919



264



1974



2010



The futur

Pre-1700: Kootenai, Salish, Pend d-Oreille and (Canadian) tribes live in the Glacier region.

Around 1700: Blackfeet extend their territory into the region from the east.

Late 1700s: Non-Indians begin to explore the region and trade with local tribes. By 1800, fur trade companies have sent Cree

and Métis representatives here to make trade alliances.

Early 1800s: Non-Indians begin exploring the region.

1855: A treaty between the U.S. government and tribes dramatically reduces the Salish, Pend d'Oreille and Kootenai tribes' territory and creates the Flathead reservation. A separate

treaty defines the land east of the northern Rockies as belonging to the Blackfeet tribe.

1891: The Great Northern Railway lays tracks just south of the Glacier region.

1895: The Blackfeet unwillingly sell the U.S. government the "ceded strip," approximately 800,000 acres along the eastern

edge of the Rockies. The tribe retains hunting rights, and members continue to hunt there.

1895-1909: Prospectors, settlers and trappers move into the mountains, expanding trails into wagon roads.

1910: An Act of Congress creates Glacier National Park.

1910-1915: The Great Northern Railway creates a network of lodges and back-country Swiss style chalets for visitors to enjoy, and widely promotes the new park

1932: Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park is designated as the world's first peace park.

1919-: The Going-to-the-Sun Highway is built.

1964: Congress passes the Wilderness Act, preserving land around Glacier as wildlife habitat.

1974: The Glacier-Waterton area is designated a "Biosphere Preserve" to further protect essential wildlife habitat.

2005-2009: Wildlife biologists research grizzly bear DNA in the "Hair of the Bear" study to learn more about the endangered grizzly bear in Glacier.

2010: Glacier Park is 100 years old! Happy anniversary!

The future: Millions of people visit our national parks every year. The challenge in Glacier's future is how to protect the natural amenities that make Glacier Park the amazing place it is while people continue to enjoy it.